

By working together we can make a difference! A special thank you is extended to every SCETF Member for bringing issues forward that impact their working conditions on a daily basis. By keeping the lines of communication open between the schools and the SCETF Office, I have been able to bring these issues forward to the Director, the Trustees and Senior Admin in order to ensure that those improvements that SCETF gained during the last round of Collective Bargaining have become a reality.



Janet Bigham
President

To name just a few, the following improvements were realized this year:

1. Locked classrooms were opened for FSL teachers for 2010-2011. I continue to lobby the Director and the Trustees to have these classrooms remain open.
2. Members must hold qualifications for all teaching assignments including Planning Time. The only exception is when a member agrees to teach outside of their qualifications.
3. The reassignment of Teacher-Librarians, Special Education Teachers or any teacher to cover during a TCLP/PLC will not occur.
4. A working group has been established to examine how a timetable is created for a 'planning time' teacher. The goal is to have consistency in grade level and/or subject area.

As we look towards next year, two events will take place that could dramatically impact the daily working conditions of elementary teachers in Simcoe County and across the province. These two events are the Ontario Provincial Election and the expiration of our Collective Agreement.

Much is at stake in the next provincial election, to be held on October 6, 2011, because the government that is elected will be the government in power as ETFO begins the next round of collective bargaining. It will be important for every ETFO member to be informed about the policies promoted by the respective political parties. ETFO members are encouraged to engage in discussions with their family, friends, and neighbours about the importance of investing in public education, other public services, and programs that contribute to Ontario being a fair and just society.

At both the provincial and local level, ETFO will be working hard to keep members informed and to foster broad involvement of our members in the campaigns of candidates committed to our goals and priorities.

The goal of ETFO's election platform, entitled Building Better Schools is to raise the profile of education issues, and to engage parents and the broader public in a discussion about what's needed to make Ontario schools the best they can be. ETFO's proposals focus on five "building blocks" for

better schools:

- more meaningful student assessment,
- greater access to specialist teachers,
- small classes for all elementary students,
- more resources for special needs students, and
- greater focus on equal opportunity and inclusion.

ETFO members are encouraged to read the platform and to engage others to talk about building better schools for Ontario students. More information can be obtained at www.etfo.org.

Although our Collective Agreement does not expire until August 31, 2012, we are already preparing for the next round of Collective Bargaining. At the Collective Bargaining Committee Representatives' Meeting held on March 2nd at the SCETF Office, the 17 member County Collective Bargaining Committee was elected - two Area CBC Reps from each of the six areas, the SCETF President, the three SCETF Vice Presidents and the Chief Negotiator. The SCETF Executive approved the County Collective Bargaining Committee's recommendation to appoint Mark Butt as Chief Negotiator. Collective Bargaining surveys have been collected and the feedback provided by the members will be used when writing the Preliminary Submission this fall.

I encourage all SCETF Members to be involved both in the 2011 Ontario Provincial Election and the next round of collective bargaining.

I wish everyone all the best for a relaxing and rejuvenating summer holiday!!!!